

President Obama Unveils FY2011 Budget

Written by Mike Honda

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On February 2nd, President Obama unveiled his Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal, in which he announced his intention to invest in areas that will help create jobs and a new economic foundation, and save money in the long term. Recognizing the tough economic times that we live in, the Administration has made tough choices in proposing to terminate or reduce programs that are not working well along with duplicated efforts.

Each year, Congress adopts a Budget Resolution, building upon the President's suggestions but based on congressional priorities. The Congressional Budget Resolution lays out our spending, revenue, borrowing, and economic goals. After the Budget Resolution is adopted, the Appropriations Committee determines the amount of funding that will be allocated to specific federal programs and executive branch agencies.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have worked hard to ensure that federal funding helps to ensure that Americans have better access to healthcare and education, that America remains competitive in the global economy through science and technology, that we promote energy conservation efforts; and that we do all these things in a fiscally responsible way.

This is why I am glad to see that the President's FY2011 budget request makes critical investments in the key areas that will help to reverse the decline in economic security that American families have experienced over the past decade, including education, clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation.

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Throughout the proposed budget, the President has focused his efforts on creating jobs while meeting other national needs. For example, the President has proposed the hiring of more claims processors in an effort to shorten the wait time for new veterans to enter the VA system. He has also proposed an increase in jobs for home air-sealing and insulation workers as part of a national effort to improve home energy efficiency.

The budget reflects a decision-making process akin to the dinner table conversations that millions of Americans families have every day. This process aims to crack down on waste, streamline priorities, and increase awareness of how tax dollars are spent. For example, the President has proposed to consolidate 38 programs into 11 new programs within the Department of Education. He has also proposed to ending funding for non-viable programs.

These types of important decisions, combined with proposals such as the three year freeze on non-security discretionary spending across agencies, aim to slowly, but surely push our nation towards recovery and budget discipline.

The President's proposal will have a positive impact on Californians in a number of ways, including tax cuts for 12.6 million families, \$6.3 billion for schools, students, and teachers, \$6.1 billion for modernization of our state's infrastructure, \$3.9 billion in new funding for Pell Grants to help families pay for college, and \$4 billion for housing assistance programs. [Click here](#) for more information on how the 2011 budget relates to California.

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I look forward to working with President Obama on his budget proposal and putting our tax dollars to work for Americans, not special interests.